



News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &
Thunder Basin National Grassland
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbr>

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Prescribed Pile Burning to Commence on the Routt National Forest

(STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, Colo.) October 5, 2011 – Fire crews from the Routt National Forest will be conducting several prescribed pile burns in Routt, Jackson and Grand Counties throughout the coming weeks. Burning could begin as soon as Thursday, October 6 and will continue as long as weather permits.

Pile burns are currently planned for areas near the Steamboat Ski Area, as well as along the Buffalo Pass Road (Forest Road 60). Other locations will be considered weather permitting. Forest users and the public should be aware that smoke from these burns will be visible and is expected. Questions should be directed to the Hahns Peak/Bears Ears (HPBE) Ranger District Office in Steamboat Springs.

Weather conditions will be closely monitored and burns will only be initiated if conditions are within established parameters for safe, effective fires. Each prescribed burn planned by the Routt National Forest has gone through an environmental analysis and has a detailed burn plan developed in advance, along with appropriate smoke permits obtained from state agencies. Signs will be placed on adjacent roads notifying the public of the prescribed fires, but no closures are expected.

This past summer, the Routt National Forest was able to complete several roadside projects along travel corridors, reducing hazardous fuels generated from the bark beetle epidemic. Fuels remaining in these areas include mechanically and hand piled slash, which has been gathered into piles. The main objective of the prescribed fires is to reduce the remaining dead fuels. The burning of those fuels by the Forest Service is in the best interest of long-term public safety.

For further information, call 970-870-2299, visit <http://fs.usda.gov/mbr> or stop by the HPBE Ranger District office in Steamboat Springs at 925 Weiss Drive.

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